

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
HELD AT CITY HALL
AUGUST 19, 2011
7:30 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Goergen called the meeting to order at 7:32 am

II. ROLL CALL

Answering roll call were Members Cardarelle, Christiaansen, Goergen, Kojetin, Lonsbury, Reed, Schwartz

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Member Kojetin and seconded by Member Cardarelle approving the meeting agenda.

Ayes: Cardarelle, Christiaansen, Goergen, Kojetin, Lonsbury, Reed, Schwartz

Motion carried.

IV. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Member Schwartz asked that where it states the “Williams Family” he would prefer that they replace it with “a family”.

Motion made by Member Schwartz and seconded by Member Kojetin to replace “Williams Family” with “a family” approving the consent agenda as follows:

IV.A. Approval of the Friday, June 17, 2011 Veterans Memorial Committee Meeting Minutes with the change.

Ayes: Cardarelle, Christiaansen, Goergen, Kojetin, Lonsbury, Reed, Schwartz

Motion carried.

V. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

V.A. SELECT FINALISTS FROM SUBMITTALS TO THE CALL FOR DESIGN SKETCHES

Mr. Keprios informed the committee that on August 4th Mr. Kost, Chair Goergen, Lois Ring and he interviewed the top four artists that were chosen at the last Veterans Committee meeting. They were: Rob Eccleston, Jeff Barber, Caprice Glaser and John Currie. He noted three of the interviews were in person and being that Bob Eccleston is from Lake Placid, New York his was done by conference call. He stated that the committee is recommending to the larger group that they enter into a contract with Mr. Eccleston. Mr. Keprios pointed out that he has talked to Mr. Eccleston a couple of times to be sure that distance is not going to be an issue and Mr. Eccleston and Mr. Kost both agreed that it should not be a problem.

Member Reed stated that he doesn't question so much the decision but asked why Member Christiaansen and he were not part of the small selection committee especially since they are on the Design and Architecture committee. He noted they were never notified of the meeting and he had asked to be part of it. Mr. Keprios apologized to Member Reed and Member Christiaansen and stated that he thought that all committee members were notified. He stressed that the oversight was not intentional and he apologized again for the lack of communication. He noted if the committee feels the process should be redone then he would be happy to make arrangements.

Member Reed asked if the sculpture will be done in bronze because there is a lot to consider when working with bronze such as maintenance. He noted they may need to consider setting up a fund for

continuing maintenance of the memorial. He added that he feels bronze is one of the more expensive mediums. Mr. Keprios replied that the interview committee heard that stainless steel is a more expensive medium than bronze although another artist had an opposite view. Member Kojetin asked Member Reed if he thinks it should be stone because if so they will need to start the process all over again. Member Reed stated that bronze is fine they just should know the maintenance that goes along with it. Mr. Keprios stated that Mr. Kost has a lot of experience with this and feels fairly strongly that it be bronze versus other elements. He noted that Mr. Kost can speak to that issue with the committee at our next meeting. Member Reed commented that stainless steel is not the only option out there.

Member Lonsbury stated he is a little confused: are they talking about bronze, stainless steel or some other medium because if they haven't selected the medium, it may be difficult to find the right artist. He asked if Mr. Eccleston works with both bronze and stainless steel to which Mr. Keprios replied yes. Member Lonsbury asked if the committee has decided they are going to use a casting as opposed to the sculpture granite idea. He commented that if the committee has already decided on a medium then they can talk to the artist; however, it's premature to be selecting an artist if they still need to decide what medium they are working with.

Member Reed indicated that when they were looking at the displays the majority of Mr. Eccleston's stuff was done in bronze and he thinks the votes were done with their samples; however, he doesn't think they were looking so much at the medium but rather what the artist had to offer. He stated there has not been a definite selection saying bronze, steel, stone, etc., by the committee. Member Lonsbury asked Member Reed and Member Christiaansen if they feel the committee is doing the right process in terms of selecting the artist because that drives the medium or do they want to have a conversation about the medium and then figure out the artist. Member Christiaansen replied that it seems like they already went one way and selected the artist, otherwise there would be another step involved in deciding what medium would be used. He stated they did their preliminary pick of the artist. Chair Goergen indicated that with their original request for design the medium was left open and they had not decided on a focal point. Member Reed added that he thinks they were more interested in looking at the ideas of the element and they were open for the element although it did seem it was emphasized on an eagle; however, that was never really agreed upon at any of their meetings. Mr. Keprios commented he thinks the committee made it clear to the artists they didn't want a human figure and that they wanted a focal piece that would be timeless and unique to Edina.

Chair Goergen commented that they are really trying to stay on a timeline because the project still needs to be approved by the Park Board and City Council. He added they not only need to get Mr. Kost's design but the focal point so there is some degree of time sensitivity.

He explained to the committee that Mr. Eccleston thinks the best way to approach the contract would be in two phases. He noted phase one would be to develop the design for the sculpture and create a maquette which will be useful in two ways. First, generate an accurate price and timeline for the monumental size sculpture. Second, the maquette could be used as a marketing tool in fundraising for the memorial. He stated that the price for creating the maquette is \$3,800 and that it would be deducted from the total cost of the monument once they start that phase of the project. He explained that phase two would be a contract to sculpt, cast in stainless steel or bronze, deliver and oversee the installation of the monumental size sculpture based upon the agreed price and timeline. He noted that the contract would also state that the artist understands that the sculpture is being funded by private donations to the Edina Veterans Memorial Committee and not the City of Edina. Mr. Keprios indicated that all they can do right now is Phase I that is the extent of their commitment with Mr. Eccleston if they choose to go down that road. He pointed out to the committee if they don't want to go down that road and they are still not sure of the medium or where you really want to go with this that's okay, the committee can revisit this and start over again if they would like. He added that the committee as a whole he felt narrowed it down to those four and it's too bad they didn't have the discussion of the medium before

they left the table. Member Christiaansen stated that he thought everyone was comfortable and he thought it implied what medium they were using. He indicated that although they were missing a few members he assumed they were done when they picked the artists at the last meeting. He commented that no one said anything.

Member Reed stated that he thinks they need to proceed because he is worried about raising money, that's the most important step right now. He commented if they could just get a picture or some literature they would at least have something to go out and pitch. Chair Goergen indicated that is probably one of the reasons indirectly why they are saying they've got to get the artist selected and do it as quickly as they can because they need to get some ideas. He stated they don't necessarily have to be the final ones but there are a few steps they need to go through with the city to have it approved.

Chair Goergen indicated it's his understanding Mr. Kost and Mr. Eccleston are going to tweak what they have as a proposal to represent how one or two might best fit into the memorial. He stated Mr. Eccleston may have an assumption that we are going to choose one of his five or a slight variation. He noted that in the interview he did let Mr. Eccleston know that they didn't want a statue that he has already done and is now sitting somewhere else. It would need to be modified and something unique to which Mr. Eccleston informed him that would not be a problem and that he would start in general with one and alter and tweak it to the committee's satisfaction.

Chair Goergen informed the committee that Mr. Kost has said that typically the artist's portion of the memorial is 10% and therefore he had been telling the artists it would be approximately \$40,000.

Mr. Keprios asked the committee if they would feel more comfortable having another phone interview to ask Mr. Eccleston some more questions. Mr. Schwartz stated they need to get moving on this and pick someone because the fundraisers need something before they can start raising funds. Chair Goergen noted that would mean at the next meeting they would need to decide on their focal point. Member Reed indicated he doesn't think they need another phone interview. Mr. Keprios responded that he thinks Mr. Eccleston is looking for direction from the committee based on the four submittals. Maybe the committee as a whole says "no" we don't want that but would like to know if Mr. Eccleston would be willing to compromise.

Mr. Keprios commented and asked the committee to correct him if he is wrong in stating that he believed that the committee previously zeroed in on Mr. Eccleston's sketch that had the eagle with the wreath. He noted that he thought the committee felt the flag was too busy and did not like the globe idea. He added that it wouldn't need to be a wreath but perhaps something a little simpler. He noted that he thinks they are at a point where they can direct the artist and the architect, okay this is it and this is the kind of base they would like to see and they will make it happen. That was the impression he got. Chair Goergen replied his impression of what Mr. Kost was saying was okay, we've selected Mr. Eccleston and indirectly we've selected one of his proposals. He indicated that they haven't approved the eagle as their figure but thinks he is going to at least use that to enable him to put together some designs that may have an eagle as part of it and they can go from there. He added that he thinks they have to clarify what it is they are looking for.

Member Reed pointed out that the eagle and wreath is very symbolic and added that all of the military services have incorporated the eagle and wreath in memorials throughout all of the services. He stated that he thinks both are a good choice.

Member Reed stated one question he would have for both the artist and architect is the base and height of the figure and how it is all going to work out. Member Cardarelle commented that he thinks they should listen to what the artist is willing to do and work with them. He indicated that he thinks they

have what they are looking for to get started and feels they should go ahead with this artist and get started.

Motion by Member Cardarelle and seconded by Member Lonsbury to approve Rob Eccleston as the artist for the Edina Veteran's Memorial.

Ayes: Cardarelle, Christiaansen, Goergen, Kojetin, Lonsbury, Reed, Schwartz

Motion carried.

Member Christiaansen asked the committee if they felt they should ask the artist to come up with other possible ideas or do they want corrections on what has been done.

Member Lonsbury stated it would seem to him they need to ask the design people about the scale and space and how it's all going to fit because it would seem to him the design needs to fit the space. Member Reed agreed Mr. Kost and Mr. Eccleston have to really get together soon because it really is two different elements. Member Lonsbury indicated that he thinks Members Christiaansen and Reed need to be a part of those conversations because they are the Design/Architecture Committee. Mr. Keprios pointed out that another thing that is going to drive this is budget. Member Lonsbury added he thinks if it's a good design with a good scale and it makes sense people will want to give money.

Chair Goergen indicated that perhaps after Mr. Kost and Mr. Eccleston have had a chance to talk that they set up another phone conversation. He noted he thinks the conversation should include members Christiaansen, member Reed, Mr. Keprios and himself. He stated that maybe at that time they can give Mr. Eccleston and Mr. Kost some more input so that indirectly they are really giving them more guidance. He added that at their next meeting they can then share with the committee what was discussed.

Member Christiaansen stated that with the direction they are giving the architect and artist at some point they need to tell the artist what it is they are making and then they need to step back. The artist will work with architect and they will sort out what form it is, its height and scale based on the budget. He indicated that he doesn't know if they can proceed without giving them something such as an "eagle". Mr. Keprios replied they are going to need a little more direction than making sure it's the right scale because they will do that. He noted that they need to zero in on do they like this or they do not like this, should it be somewhat like this or should it be different. Member Christiaansen asked should they request other designs maybe ask for a couple more "eagle" options or maybe one more because he has given them a nice eagle. Mr. Keprios asked what is it this group wants to see rather than just say give us a couple of more options. Member Christiaansen agreed that they need to have something in place by the end of the meeting. Mr. Keprios suggested guiding them in an area to come up with something that is not this but similar. Member Christiaansen suggested maybe voting to have the artist give them two other options; one with another figure or something different just to see what else he could do, they need to decide the direction they want to go. Mr. Keprios asked Member Christiaansen if he means another figure other than an "eagle" to which Member Christiaansen replied that is what they need to decide. Member Christiaansen noted he has already given them five eagle options and he is not sure how to get more eagles. He suggested taking the eagle with the wreath or another one and say okay let's keep this one but show us one more figure and then we would have two and we won't have to choose between one or the other, we could integrate them by saying which parts we like and don't like and put those together. Member Schwartz indicated that he doesn't want to get too much into the artist business. He noted that he loved the eagle with the wreath but doesn't want to see kids climbing through the wreath or throwing balls so he would like to see something behind the wreath.

Member Reed asked if they want to just specify an eagle and if so maybe it could be a little more contemporary. He stated personally he doesn't care for the eagle with the things trailing out of it like a

flag or banner. Member Schwartz indicated he likes the symbolism of it he just doesn't want to see kids playing with it because it would ruin the whole dignity of what they are trying to do.

Member Lonsbury indicated that he likes the eagle idea; however, his concern is how can the artist draw up something without considering how it's going to fit in the overall site as well as will there be a front and back or are they looking at something 3 dimensional. Those kinds of questions need to be asked. He stated if the committee is okay, do we like wreaths with the eagle or do we just want an eagle because he doesn't think they want a globe since no one said anything. He commented that he doesn't know if they should be asking for more sketches without knowing the context in which it's going to be placed. Member Reed responded that is right because where this element is going to be placed within the whole memorial will make a big difference of what that element looks like. He also pointed out are they going to have a directional memorial or a multi directional memorial from the walking paths.

Member Lonsbury stated he doesn't think they need a sketch back from the artist until they talk to the architect. He noted he thinks what they need to do in terms of the direction is to say we've agreed, it's going to be some kind of metal on top of a base like granite, marble, metal, etc., and we like eagles or we like eagles with wreaths, is that enough direction. Member Christiaansen replied he thinks they've made some decisions that should give them some options and they could bring back three options from which the committee can choose. Chair Goergen commented they are not locking themselves into anything to which Member Lonsbury replied they are just giving them direction, they are not picking anything. Member Lonsbury stated that he would hope sometime soon they would have the architects' plot of how this is going to work, where it's going to be, and where the sculpture is going to be. He thinks this way the artist can say he wants to do an eagle like this instead of like that.

Member Cardarelle stated that he thinks they should ask for at least three options so they can make up their mind. Chair Goergen replied that he thinks in Mr. Kost's agreement that he would give them two or three. Member Lonsbury indicated that he would like to see overall concepts and not just three artist concepts.

Member Schwartz indicated that by the end of the next meeting he would like the committee to have decided on the architectural placement and where they are going to have their focal point and go from there. He added that he thinks they need to put the task on Mr. Kost and give him a month to get the committee to decide and then move forward. Chair Goergen asked the committee to try to agree today that it's going to be some type of eagle or do we still want to see something besides an eagle.

Motion by Member Christiaansen and seconded by Member Cardarelle to give direction to the artist and the architect that the artistic element of the memorial be an eagle and that they will see variations of that eagle depending how it fits in the context and what the plan is.

Ayes: Cardarelle, Christiaansen, Goergen, Kojetin, Lonsbury, Reed, Schwartz

Motion carried.

Motion by Member Schwartz that by the end of their next meeting they will have a recommendation from Mr. Kost and a decision made by the committee on the layout and where that focal point will be placed. There was no second. Chair Goergen noted that the matter will be put on the next agenda. Member Kojetin stated that he thinks it should be a motion because it forces Mr. Kost to come up with something.

Member Reed asked could they have an amendment that says as a committee they should give Mr. Kost more direction in general in terms like do we want it omnidirectional, we want it facing the creek, we want it facing 50th, give him some specifics that as a committee they can agree on. Member Christiaansen commented that they have given him a lot of new things.

Member Lonsbury stated as a point of clarification he thinks there is a motion and there is a second and that Member Reed may not want that as an amendment but rather that would be discussion. Member Lonsbury stated that the motion is to have the architect give the committee recommendations at their next meeting. He indicated that the question is based on the discussion, was the intent of the motion to have a variety of options presented by the architect or to have a single recommendation from the architect. Member Schwartz clarified that by the end of the next meeting they know where they are going and can go forward from there. Member Lonsbury asked Member Schwartz do you want the architect to bring back a singular recommendation or several recommendations. He explained that if it's a single recommendation then they need to give them some answers, if they want two or three they can have the discussion at the next meeting about if they want it omnidirectional and all of that and that's why he is trying to understand the motion.

Member Schwartz stated that knowing it's going to be an eagle would like three options from the architect to vote on at their next meeting. Member Lonsbury asked Member Christiaansen whether or not he thinks they need to give the architect more information. Member Christiaansen replied that he thinks they should ask for options but should not give them any more direction and just let them go with it because that is what they are paying them for. He commented that hopefully they are enough along where they will be able to make a decision with possible modifications at their next meeting and then will have a good direction to go. Member Schwartz indicated he would like to be able to give the fundraising group a date that they will have the plan to start showing people to raise money. Member Lonsbury stated that realistically if they have the three options and they choose one of those options by the October meeting they should be able to have final drawings back based on the one that they pick. He noted that he thinks they will need a month to get the concept, a month to do the final and two or three weeks to get approval from the Park and everyone else. He indicated that realistically he thinks the fundraising and marketing groups will have what they need to get started the first part of November.

Member Schwartz commented that maybe they don't need a motion that is what he was looking for.

Member Lonsbury again stated that he thinks Members Reed and Christiaansen need to be a part of the discussions with the artist and architect before their next meeting.

Member Lonsbury asked do you want to deal with the motion or do you want to pull and the second. Member Cardarelle withdrew the formal motion. Chair Goergen stated that he thinks we all agree and we will get that information to which Mr. Keprios replied he will get this information to the architect.

Mr. Keprios stated that because he erred on the interview process he wants to be sure everyone is still comfortable going forward. Members Reed and Christiaansen commented that the Design and Architectural subcommittee agree with the process and the selection of the artist.

Member Schwartz informed the committee that he looked at over 100 people, scrutinized 50 very closely and selected 30 who met the criteria they established months ago (see attached). He noted that there are five who are on the fence which he feels the committee need to discuss. He explained cases both for and against the following five people (see attached):

Air Force Lieutenant Wesland Hansord
Air Force Captain Earl G. Soderbreck
Navy Seaman 1C John F. Lucas
Navy LT Richard E. O'Connell
Marine Field Cook Roy Arnold Anderson

Discussion took place.

Motion by Member Reed and seconded by Member Cardarelle to accept Wesland Hansord and Earl G. Soderbreck as fulfilling the selection criteria for KIAs.

Ayes: Cardarelle, Christiaansen, Goergen, Kojetin, Lonsbury, Reed, Schwartz

Motion carried.

After discussion it was decided that John Lucas, Richard O'Connell and Roy Arnold Anderson did not fulfill the selection criteria.

Chair Goergen indicated that once they have the final list of names and before they start chiseling in the granite they are going to the public through the Sun Current, Website, etc., and ask family members if there are any additional names or corrections that need to be made.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 am